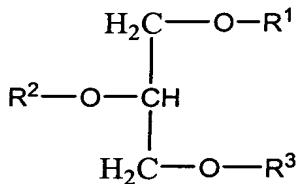


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method of preventing or treating skin damage, comprising orally administering a composition containing diacylglycerol ether represented by the formula (I):



wherein R^1 denotes C_{12-24} aliphatic hydrocarbon groups having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 2; R^2 denotes C_{12-24} acyl groups having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6; and R^3 denotes C_{12-24} acyl groups having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the skin damage is wrinkle formation and/or sagging formation, the formation of skin cancer, or the formation of pigmented spots and/or freckles.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the diacylglycerol ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 10 mg and 5000 mg per day.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the composition is provided as processed food.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the composition is a diacylglycerol ether-containing composition derived from shark liver oil.

Claim 10 (New): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein R¹ denotes a C₁₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a degree of unsaturation of 1, R² denotes a C₁₈ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of 1, and R³ denotes a C₁₈ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of 1.